



Town of Fort Myers Beach

Larry Kiker
Mayor

Bob Raymond
Vice Mayor

Tom Babcock
Council Member

Jo List
Council Member

Alan Mandel
Council Member

September 1, 2010

Stephen Boutelle
Division of Natural Resources
Lee County
P. O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Dear Mr. Boutelle,

RE: Beach Re-Nourishment Start Date

The efforts by the Town and Lee County to establish a beach re-nourishment project for the beaches on Fort Myers Beach achieved success recently with the approval of a revised Inter-Local Agreement. This project has been years in the making and though it is reduced in size from the original proposal, it is nonetheless designed to remedy a situation of serious erosion on the upper portion of our island. Strong seasonal storms in the past few weeks caused significant additional erosion and has some property owners in the re-nourishment area complaining that the beach has disappeared to the point that high tide now has water perilously close to the structures on their property. From their perspective, the re-nourishment project cannot begin soon enough.

The purpose of this letter is to express the Town of Fort Myers Beach's desire to move the beach re-nourishment project along as quickly as possible. To that end, we respectfully request that Lee County put forth a request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to assist all parties in processing the permit application expeditiously.

We all recognize that this project has taken several years to get to this point. During that time the landscape of the beach has changed significantly in certain locations. As noted above, some of those locations have eroded to the point that it is cause for strong concern to the property owners and the Town. We believe that any delay is not in the best interest of the Town nor its property owners. There has been some discussion that the project should wait to begin construction until after the season, perhaps until May of 2011. That is not an acceptable outcome.

The sooner permits can be acquired and the project initiated the better. We respectfully ask for your commitment to move this project forward ASAP.

Respectfully,

Larry Kiker, Mayor
On behalf of the Town Council
Town of Fort Myers Beach